

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Initial Lake Group Meeting (Leech Lake), Upper Mississippi River Headwaters Reservoir Operations Plan Evaluation (ROPE) Studies

1. On Wednesday, 11 July 2002 beginning at 9:45 am, the subject meeting was conducted at Margarita Mulligan's, near Huddle's Resort on Leech Lake. Participants at this meeting included interests from the MN DNR, MPCA, USFS, Leech Lake Association, Cass County, TCLLWP, SWCD – Cass County, local resorts, and the Corps of Engineers – Mississippi Headwaters Project.
2. This meeting focused on providing a short overview and status of the ROPE, a chance to discuss the roles of this group and others being formed, and to define ways to organize and mobilize this group. See the attached agenda and handouts that were used at the meeting for details.
3. Key points and discussions that occurred during this meeting are summarized as follows:
 - Each member of the group took the opportunity to introduce him or herself and offered their particular interest or interests they represented. The combined topics included: environmental, pollution, water quality, shoreline issues, erosion, development, vegetation, wildlife, recreational boating, fishing and hunting, preservation, conservation, and tribal interests.
 - The impacts of operations on various organizations and interest groups in the area were explained. It was stated that many people are not aware of the dam operations on Leech Lake, and why the Corps operates Leech Lake the way it does. When it comes to operations, the need for others to understand the concerns both upstream and downstream are great.
 - The group listed other potential interest groups that were not represented at the meeting. After compiling a list, each member volunteered to get contacts for specific interest groups. The following list shows each group member responsible for his or her respective contacts.

GROUP	GROUP MEMBER RESPONSIBLE	CONTACT
Ducks Unlimited	Don Pierce	
MN Waterfowl Assn. - Remer	Don Pierce	
City of Walker	Jim Dowson	Steve Michael
Sky Blue Water Joint Powers Brd.	John Steward	
North Star Sportsman's Club	Jerry Demars	Sharlene Moore
Muskies Inc.	Jason Hauser	Dan Dean
LL Chamber of Commerce	Jim Dowson	
MHB	USFS - Dave Morley	Jane VanHunnik
Cass County	Jim Dowson	
Realtors	COE	John Ringle (LL Realty)
DNR Aquatic Vegetation Specialist	John Steward	Donna Proberg
MN Waterfowl Assn. - Walker	Jerry Demars	
LL Guide Coalition	Roman Frigge	
LL Tourism Bureau	Roman Frigge	
Assn. of Cass County Lakes	Gary Lyall	Fred Bliss
Cass Lake Group	Brenda Glenn (per Dave Morley)	
Sailboat Groups	John Ringle	Shores of Leech Lake Yacht Club (Mitch Loomis)
Snowmobile Clubs	Jim Dowson	Leech Lake Riders
Local Press	Jerry Demars	Walker Pilot Joe Sherman Dean Morrel Bemidji Cass Lake Remer Longville
LLA	Jerry Demars	
MN Trappers Association	Don Pierce	
City of Federal Dam	Timm Rennecke	Jim Campbell
Property Owners Groups	Jim Dowson	Oak Point (Jack Hacking) Lakewood Acres (Les Kleinke) Bear Island Shingobee Island
Cass County Assn. of Townships	Jim Dowson	
Cass County EDS	Jim Dowson	

- There were questions concerning the current operating plan, and if it took into account the concerns for tribal trust, wildlife, erosion, shoreline issues, etc. What changes would be made if these concerns are already being met, and will they be met under a new operating plan? It was

explained that these issues indeed are considered under the current operating plan, however, the plan is nearly forty years old and many of these concerns have changed over this time. The study will identify the problems and identify solutions based on facts and technical data.

- It was stated that this group needs to convince people to get involved in this study and to provide their input. The following are requested products that will ease in this process.
 1. Gary Lyall (TCLLWP) would like 3x5 inch cards to distribute to interested parties. These cards should contain pertinent information such as:
 - a. What the ROPE is
 - b. The timeline of the study
 - c. What the elements are and why they are important
 - d. The potential changes that could be made due to the study
 2. Jim Dowson (Cass County Commissioner) stated that a fact sheet containing basic information on our current operating plan would be beneficial in creating awareness among others. This fact sheet would also stress the importance of the study in regards to future operations. The current operating plan summaries should be posted on the ROPE web site.
 3. John Steward (MN DNR) requested that a flow chart be created showing where each member of the group fits in and what their roles are.
 4. John Ringle (LLDRM) stated that the group should include Gina Papsadora, cultural specialist for Leech Lake and Winnie, as a group member. She works out of the same office as John Ringle, and can be reached through his phone number.
- Volunteer / Observer roster sign-up sheets were passed through the group. The following lists show the members who committed to being an observer or volunteer. The concept of volunteer staff gauge readers was also addressed to the group.

Subject: Initial Lake Group Meeting List for - Leech Lake Group
RE: Upper Mississippi River Headwaters ROPE Studies

Observers Roster

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
Gary Lyall	TCLLWP		218-682-2955	
John Steward	TCLLWP / MNDNR		218-547-1770	
Jim Dowson	Cass County Comm.			jim.dowson@co.cass.mn.us
Ken LeVoir	MPCA		218-828-2492	

Volunteers Roster

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
Stan Kumpula	SWCD, Cass Co.	4168 Interlachen Dr., Hackensack, MN	218-682-2026	skumpula@tds.net
Gary Lyall	TCLLWP		800-442-3942	
Roman Frigge	LL Tourism Bureau		218-654-3761	bayshore@means.net
Gerald Demars	LLA			mnd@djам.com
Ernie Briggs	LLA			

- It was stated by personnel from the MN DNR that the Corps requesting support is new to them. They are already committed to many other requests and projects. The Corps needs to convince people of the ROPE's importance so as to gain other agency support.

4. The following list contains all group members who attended the meeting and their contact information.

Name	Organization	Address	Telephone	E-Mail
Jason Hauser	COE-Leech Lake	1217 Federal Dam Dr. NE Federal Dam, MN	218-654-3145	jason.a.hauser@usace.army.mil
Jim Dowson	Cass County Comm.	6325 Pinecone LN NW	218-547-1894	jim.dowson@co.cass.mn.us
Jerry Dumars	LLA	8534 Hanson Lane NW	218-547-3390	mnd@djам.com

Ernie Briggs	LLA	1644 67th ST NW Walker, MN 56484	218-836-2656
John Ringle	LLDRM	6530 HWY 2, Cass Lake, MN 514 Sunny Acres Lane NW Hackensack, MN	800-442-3942 11fish@paulbunyon.net
Gary Lyall	TCLLWP	Hackensack, MN	218-682-2955
Don Pierce	MN DNR - Wildlife	Hwy 2, Grand Rapids 1800 College RD S. Baxter, MN 56425	218-327-4429 don.pierce@dnr.state.mn.us
Ken LeVoir	MPCA	4168 Interlachen DR Hackensack, MN 56432	218-828-2492 ken.levoir@pca.state.mn.us
Stan Kumpula	SWCD - Cass Co.	2217 Lake Shore DR NW Cass Lake, MN	218-682-2026 skumpula@tds.net
Roman Frigge	Bay Shore Resort	208 Minnesota Ave Walker, MN 56484	218-654-3761 bayshore@means.net
Dave Morley	USFS	4949 Barnum RD	218-547-1044 damorley@fs.fed.us
Al Bradshaw	Barnum Lake	07316 State 371 NW	218-682-3104 alnann@uslink.net
John Steward	MN DNR/TCLLWP	1696 Whipholt Beach RD NW Whipholt, MN 56484	218-547-1770 john.steward@dnr.mn.us
Roy Huddle	Huddle's Resort		218-836-2420

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm. The next meeting is tentatively set for sometime in October. It is felt that there will be a better showing of other interest groups at that time. July is a very busy month for many of the groups.

Enclosure 1

Meeting Agenda and handouts (*click on Acrobat Document below for attachment*)



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